



The Western Balkans and the Berlin Process

-
Current achievements,
future goals



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BALKANS

-
Poznań 2019

3 July 2019

Poznań International Fair, Głogowska 14, Building 8a

12:00

Registration

12:45

Buffet lunch

14:00 – 14:15

Opening

Welcome address: **Mateusz Gniazdowski**, Deputy Director of the Centre for Eastern Studies

Keynote speech: **Szymon Szykowski vel Sęk**, Deputy Foreign Minister, the Polish Government's Plenipotentiary for the Organisation of the Western Balkans Summit

14:15 – 15:30

Connecting the dots

One of the aims of the Berlin Process is to enhance connectivity and regional co-operation throughout the Western Balkans. The *Connectivity Agenda* for the Western Balkans foresees the development of WBIF financing for the transport and energy infrastructure, and stresses the importance of the implementation of technical standards and soft measures, such as aligning and simplifying border crossing procedures, etc. To ensure sustainable economic growth, emphasis has also been placed on fostering regional market integration and increasing mutually beneficial trade within the region. During the Trieste Summit a MAP REA was endorsed, but today the implementation of infrastructure projects and the foreseen reforms are proceeding very slowly. Moreover, the performance of regional organisations such as CEFTA and the Energy Community faces numerous challenges. The panel will focus on assessing the current achievements in establishing the joint economic area and the re-connection of the region.



Jelica Minić, President of the Forum for International Relations, Serbia

Ardian Hackaj, Research Director, Cooperation and Development Institute, Albania

Silvana Mojsovska, Institute of Economics, SS. Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia

Nermin Oruč, Director, Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nenad Đurđević, Director of International Affairs, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Serbia

MODERATOR: **James Ker-Lindsay**, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00

Growing together

The Berlin Process is aimed at improving the socio-economic situation in the region and creating the conditions for stable economic growth. The panel will explore the social and economic development of the Western Balkan region, as well as the key social, economic, and employment challenges these countries are facing. These issues will be explored in light of the EU's policy instruments, with special emphasis placed on the tools developed within the framework of the Berlin Process cooperation. The impact of the Berlin Process on economic development in the Western Balkans will be evaluated. Furthermore, the panellists will debate the main challenges to building welfare states in the Western Balkans, such as the lack of sustainable results regarding the rule of law. The discussion should conclude with recommendations for political leaders on how to make the Western Balkans more prosperous.

Gersi Gashi, Policy Researcher, Democracy for Development, Kosovo

Jovana Marović, Executive Director, Politikon Network, Montenegro

Enkeleida Tahiraj, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Maja Bobić, EFB Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans, Serbia

Kelmend Zajazi, Executive Director, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS), North Macedonia

MODERATOR: **Piotr Arak**, Director of the Polish Economic Institute, Poland

17:15 – 17:30

Coffee break

17:30 – 18:45

Challenges ahead

The Western Balkans Summit is taking place at a time when the composition of the European institution for the next five years is being decided. This will shape the new strategic priorities of EU policy towards the Balkans. The publication of the European Commission's new strategy for the Western Balkans in February 2018, the EU-Western Balkans summit in May 2018, and the continuation of the Berlin Process beyond 2018 show the unprecedented wave of interest by the EU in the Balkans over the last year. However, growing opposition to further enlargement has called into question the continuation of these processes by the new European Commission, especially as some European politicians prefer to focus on reform of the European Union instead of enlargement policy. The panel discussion will reflect on the limitations of enlargement policy and the search for new ideas which could make the EU's approach towards the Western Balkans more effective, and on how to make enlargement policy more credible.



Vladimir Međak, Vice-President, European Movement, Serbia

Gjergji Vurmo, Programme Director, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Albania

Srđan Majstorović, Chairman of the Governing Board, European Policy Centre, Serbia

Donika Emini, Researcher, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Kosovo

Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

MODERATOR: **Zoran Nechev**, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Democracy *Societas Civilis* – Skopje (IDSCS), North Macedonia

20:00

Reception (organized by the Polish MFA)



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Important information: The working language of the conference is English.

Please note: The OSW plans to produce image recordings during the event, which the OSW will use and publish in a documentary about the event, for its own reporting, as well as on the Internet. In doing so, it might be possible that pictures of your person might be taken and be used for later publication. If you do not agree to this, please send us an e-mail at info@osw.waw.pl.